

DISCOVERY



CHRISTIAN CHURCH

July 23

An Invitation to Pause, Emilie Knauss

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES: Mark 14:1-36

QUOTE

"It is characteristic of the human mind that it simply refuses to assimilate an idea which is strange and alien and objectionable to it. The human mind can and does shut itself against that which it does not wish to see and to accept and to understand. An idea can be so new and so revolutionary, so contradictory of all that the mind already thinks it knows, that the mind cannot and will not cope with it."

William Barclay, *Jesus as They Saw Him*

EXCERPT from *Invitation*, by Mary Oliver

I beg of you, do not walk by without pausing to attend to this rather ridiculous performance. I could mean something. It could mean everything.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What kind of picture do you have of God in your mind? Where did you get that picture from?
2. In Aramaic, "Abba" is not a reference to the amazing music group that inspired Mama Mia — it is an informal way to say "Father." It describes someone's personal relationship with someone. Mark has Jesus begging to his "Abba" in chapter 14. How do you feel about calling the Creator of the universe "Dad"?
3. Mark goes through the events of Jesus very quickly in his book, but when he approaches the end of Jesus' life he really slows down. When you pause and read Mark 14 carefully, what do you notice about Jesus' character? What stands out?
4. Often times, when we are frustrated with others, we tend to think that we can do their job better than they can. We all have a lot of opinions on how things should be done. What is your strongest opinion? How do you react when people have differing views? What do you think God is asking you to pause and reflect on with this viewpoint?
5. When Jesus and his disciples are having their last meal together, Jesus offers friendship to all of them — even Judas. He acknowledges that his friends are going to leave him when he needs them the most, and he forgives them before it even happened. What does that say about God?
6. What is something you currently believe about God that you know to be true? What is something you believe about God that is not true? How do you think God is asking you to respond with the answers to these two questions?